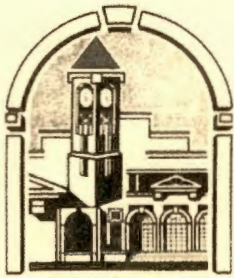


14-0826



## City of Venice

Request to Speak (print legibly)

Name: TERRY JASPER Date: 8-12-14  
Address: 130 BURAND CT  
City: North Venice State: FL Zip: 34275  
Telephone: 941-244-2244

Please Check One

☐ Audience Participation

☒ Agenda - Topic: Council Action 14-0826 - Authorize Letter -  
Mayor to Various

If you are going to present evidence and/or testimony during a public hearing, you are required to complete and sign the following oath. You are not required to sign the oath if you are speaking at Audience Participation or at a workshop.

I swear or affirm, under penalty of perjury, that the evidence of factual representation, which I am about to give or present at the public hearing, held this 12 day of Aug 2014 is truthful.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments at public hearing and during audience participation are limited to five minutes per speaker unless otherwise noted.

August 12, 2014

Mayor and City Council,

I am here today on behalf of the Venetian Golf and River Club Community Association. Our Board has voted unanimously to support any and all efforts of the City of Venice to bring attention to the importance of enhancing the City's I-75 \_ Laurel Road Gateway.

Actually, this interchange is the only Interstate gateway within the city limits of Venice and I believe all will agree its present appearance is not something of which we can be proud.

We have been working closely with the Board of County Commissioners as well as several developers and business entities that also recognize the need to improve the appearance of the interchange area. From the letters that you have received, there is no doubt that they are also in strong support in improving the condition and appearance of our northern gateway.

One of the programs that could have a major effect on this gateway is the Florida Department of Transportation's Bold Landscaping initiative. We are hopeful, through the efforts of our Mayor, City Council and County Commissioners, that the I-75/Laurel Road interchange will be selected as a participant in this FDOT program. The letter from the Mayor you are being asked to authorize today will certainly help in reaching that goal.

While the FDOT Bold Landscaping initiative is presently front and center as a means of enhancing the northern gateway area, our Community Association is also working with the County and others on beautification improvements along the Laurel Road corridor west of the I-75 interchange as well as continuous bike lane and sidewalk access from our area east of the interchange to the Legacy Trail intersection on Laurel Road.

Mayor and City Council, hopefully we will also receive your strong support as we promote these other North Venice initiatives with County and State officials.

Again, thanks for recognizing the importance of enhancing the Exit 195 Gateway and hopefully your continued effort in making it happen.

Jerry Jasper  
VP & Director  
VGRC Community Association